

**MINUTES OF THE  
HEALTH REFORM TASK FORCE**

Thursday, December 4, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 210 Senate Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Senate Chair  
Rep. James A. Dunnigan, House Chair  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Francis D. Gibson  
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson  
Rep. Dean Sanpei

**Members Absent:**

Sen. J. Stuart Adams

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Mark Andrews, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Cathy Dupont, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Lori Rammell, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Task Force Business**

Chair Dunnigan called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Gibson moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Davis absent for the vote.

**2. Extending the Availability of Health Insurance**

Mr. Andrews presented statistics about the state's Medicaid program highlighting changes in state spending on the program as a percentage of General Fund spending, changes in program enrollment as a percentage of the state's population, changes in per enrollee cost, and changes due to the Medicaid eligibility expansion required by the federal Affordable Care Act. He also explained how being above or below the federal poverty level affects one's eligibility for Medicaid or federal health insurance subsidies.

Rep. Dunnigan presented five options for increasing health insurance coverage among adults whose household income does not exceed the federal poverty level and who are not currently eligible for Medicaid (see "Addressing the Coverage Gap").

Mr. Michael Hales, Deputy Director, Utah Department of Health, discussed the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), used to determine the federal funding of Medicaid.

Lieutenant Governor Spencer J. Cox introduced the governor's Healthy Utah proposal. He indicated that as a result of a recently completed actuarial study by Milliman, more individuals would be enrolled in Healthy Utah, and costs would be higher, than previously estimated.

Dr. W. David Patton, Executive Director, Utah Department of Health, presented the governor's Healthy Utah proposal. (See "Healthy Utah" (slides) and "Healthy Utah" (report)). He indicated that the governor wants to work with the Legislature on the development of a federal waiver for the proposal and that it will take months to complete the waiver process.

Mr. Hales discussed the "woodwork effect" included in the most recent estimates of Healthy Utah impacts

and indicated that it is the most uncertain element in the estimates.

### **3. Behavioral Healthcare Workgroup**

Rep. Sanpei reported on the Behavioral Health Workgroup's efforts to define "vulnerable person" for purposes of a Medicaid eligibility expansion. He also reviewed three approaches for identifying vulnerable persons and discussed a proposal by Salt Lake County to integrate medical and behavioral health under an expansion. (See "Behavioral Health Workgroup: Report to the Health Reform Task Force, December 4, 2014," "Vulnerable Person (proposed)," "Utah Approach," and "Salt Lake County Pilot Model.")

**MOTION:** Rep. Sanpei moved that for any expansion of Medicaid eligibility, the task force endorse the use of the process proposed by the Behavioral Health Workgroup for identifying vulnerable persons. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Charity Care: The Role of Community Clinics**

Dr. Mansoor S. Emam, Medical Director and co-founder of The Hope Clinic, discussed the delivery of health care by the Maliheh Free Clinic and the Hope Clinic. (See "Uncompensated Medical Care for the Underserved & Uninsured Patients.")

### **5. Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations**

This item was not discussed.

### **6. Other Business**

Rep. Dunnigan reminded the task force that its next meeting is scheduled for December 18 at 9 a.m. Rep. Dunnigan asked task force members to come prepared to narrow down and take positions on the Medicaid extension and expansion options.

### **5. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Christensen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Poulson absent for the vote.

Chair Dunnigan adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.